

Message Text

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UNCLAS ROME 10211

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OEXC, IT

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE PROGRAM - ITALIAN AND AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISTS

REF: ROME'S A-531

1. I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP ON OUR AIRGRAM A-531 OF SEPTEMBER 12 CONCERNING UNION-TO-UNION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. I AM CONVINCED OF NEED FOR EXPANDED CONTACT AND INTERCHANGE BETWEEN ITALIAN AND US TRADE UNIONISTS AND FEEL THAT THE KIND OF FLEXIBLE APPROACH WHICH WE SUGGESTED IN OUR AIRGRAM MERITS SERIOUS STUDY. I NEED NOT EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE UNIONS IN ITALY WITH THEIR SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT. AT THE SAME TIME THAT YOUNG TRADE UNION LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY EXPOSED TO A WELL-DEVELOPED EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH TRADE UNIONS FROM THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE WITH WHICH THEY HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON, THERE IS VERY LITTLE EXPOSURE OF ITALIAN TRADE UNIONISTS TO THOSE US TRADE UNIONS WITH WHICH THEY SHARE MANY PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY, OPERATING IN A DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK.

2. I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE SEARCH FOR WAYS TO MAKE FEASIBLE INCREASING VISITS AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS BETWEEN ITALIAN AND AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS. VOLPE

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